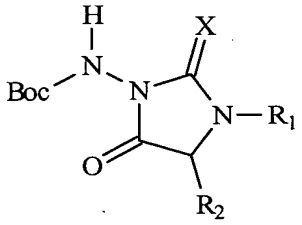
3. (New) A method for making a hydantoin or thiohydantoin having the formula:



wherein X is oxygen or sulfur, R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, a heterocyclic ring, an aromatic ring, or a heteroaromatic ring; R_2 is hydrogen, alkyl, a heterocyclic ring, an aromatic ring, or a heteroaromatic ring; or R_1 and R_2 can be taken together to form a fused heterocyclic ring, a fused aromatic ring, or a fused heteroaromatic ring with the hydantoin or thiohydantoin ring; said method comprising the steps of:

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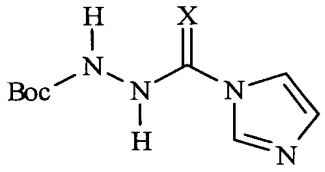
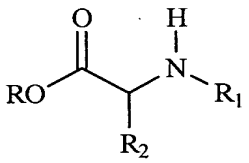
a) reacting a hydrazine compound having the formula:



with an amino acid ester having the formula:



to form a reaction mixture; and

b) heating said reaction mixture to form said hydantoin or thiohydantoin.

4. (New) A method according to Claim 3 wherein X is oxygen.

5. (New) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said R_1 is a unit selected from the group consisting of phenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, 2-furanylmethyl, 1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl, (5-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)ethyl, (1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)ethyl, (1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl, [(5-nitro-2-pyridinyl)amino]ethyl, 2-(1-piperidinyl)ethyl, (1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl)ethyl, (2-methyl-1-piperidinyl)propyl, 3-(1-piperidinyl)propyl, 3-(4-morphilinyl)propyl, 3-(2-oxo-1-pyrrolidinyl)propyl, (6,6-dimethylbicyclo[3.1.1]hept-3-yl)methyl, 1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidnyl, and 2-furanylmethyl.

6. (New) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said amino acid ester is selected from the group consisting of a benzyl, methyl, or ethyl ester of 2-pipecoline carboxylate, proline, 4-hydroxyproline, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-3-isoquinolinecarboxylate, thiozolidine-2-carboxylate, and mixtures thereof.

7. (New) A method according to Claim 3 wherein R_2 is hydrogen or methyl.

8. (New) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said process is conducted in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide, dioxane, methylene chloride, and mixtures thereof.

9. (New) A method according to Claim 3 wherein step (b) is conducted at a temperature of from 60 °C to 70 °C.

10. (New) A method according to Claim 3 wherein prior to step (a) said process comprises a step of forming said hydrazine compound having the formula:

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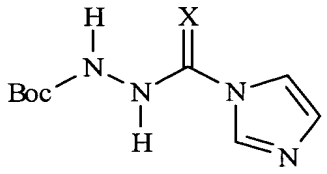


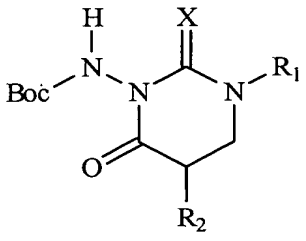
wherein said step comprises reacting tert-butoxycarbonyl hydrazine with carbonyldiimidazole or thiocarbonyldiimidazole to form said hydrazine compound.

11. (New) A method according to Claim 10 wherein said hydrazine compound is used in step (a) directly without further purification.

12. (New) A method according to Claim 3 further comprising the step of isolating said hydantoin or thiohydantoin.

13. (New) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said process further comprises the step of removing said solvent.

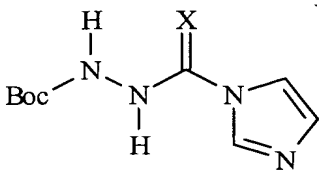
14. (New) A method for making a 3-aminodihydrouracil or 3-aminodihydrothiouracil having the formula:



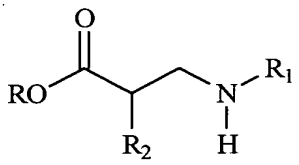
wherein X is oxygen or sulfur, R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, a heterocyclic ring, an aromatic ring, or a heteroaromatic ring; R_2 is hydrogen, alkyl, a heterocyclic ring, an aromatic ring, or a heteroaromatic ring; or R_1 and R_2 can be taken together to form a fused heterocyclic ring, a

fused aromatic ring, and fused heteroaromatic ring with the 3-amino dihydrouracil or 3-aminodihydrothiouracil ring; said method comprising the steps of:

a) reacting a hydrazine compound having the formula:



with an amino acid ester having the formula:



to form a reaction mixture; and

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b) heating said reaction mixture to form said 3-aminodihydrouracil or 3-aminodihydrothiouracil.

15. (New) A method according to Claim 14 wherein X is oxygen.

16. (New) A method according to Claim 14 wherein said R_1 is a unit selected from the group consisting of phenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, 2-furanylmethyl, 1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl, (5-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)ethyl, (1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)ethyl, (1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl, [(5-nitro-2-pyridinyl)amino]ethyl, 2-(1-piperidinyl)ethyl, (1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl)ethyl, (2-methyl-1-piperidinyl)propyl, 3-(1-piperidinyl)propyl, 3-(4-morphilinyl)propyl, 3-(2-oxo-1-pyrrolidinyl)propyl, (6,6-dimethylbicyclo[3.1.1]hept-3-yl)methyl, 1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidnyl, and 2-furanylmethyl.

17. (New) A method according to Claim 14 wherein said amino acid ester is selected from the group consisting of a benzyl, methyl, or ethyl ester of 2-pipecoline carboxylate, proline, 4-hydroxyproline, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-3-isoquinolinecarboxylate, thiozolidine-2-carboxylate, and mixtures thereof.

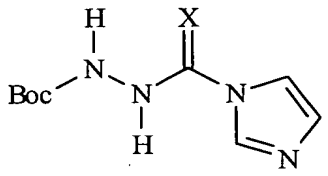
18. (New) A method according to Claim 14 wherein R_2 is hydrogen or methyl.

19. (New) A method according to Claim 14 wherein said process is conducted in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide, dioxane, methylene chloride, and mixtures thereof.

20. (New) A method according to Claim 19 wherein said solvent is dioxane.

21. (New) A method ding to Claim 14 wherein step (b) is con ted at a temperature of from 100 °C to 110 °C.

22. (New) A method according to Claim 3 wherein prior to step (a) said process comprises a step of forming said hydrazine compound having the formula:



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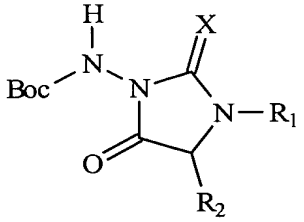
wherein said step comprises reacting tert-butoxycarbonyl hydrazine with carbonyldiimidazole or thiocarbonyldiimidazole to form said hydrazine compound.

23. (New) A method according to Claim 22 wherein said hydrazine compound is used in step (a) directly without further purification.

24. (New) A method according to Claim 14 further comprising the step of isolating said hydantoin or thiohydantoin.

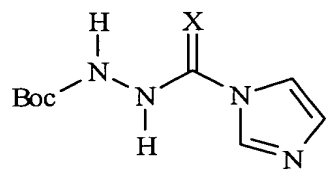
25. (New) A method according to Claim 19 wherein said process further comprises the step of removing said solvent.

26. (New) A method for making a hydantoin or thiohydantoin having the formula:

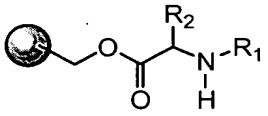


wherein X is oxygen or sulfur, R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, a heterocyclic ring, an aromatic ring, or a heteroaromatic ring; R_2 is hydrogen, alkyl, a heterocyclic ring, an aromatic ring, or a heteroaromatic ring; or R_1 and R_2 can be taken together to form a fused heterocyclic ring, a fused aromatic ring, or a fused heteroaromatic ring with the hydantoin or thiohydantoin ring; said method comprising the steps of:

a) reacting a hydrazine compound having the formula:



with a resin and amino acid ester having the formula:

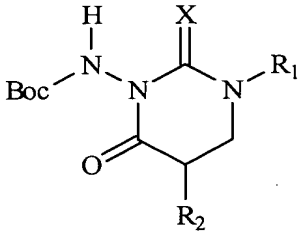


wherein the symbol:

signifies a Merrifield resin, hydroxymethyl, resin, Wang resin, or PEG resin; to form a reaction mixture; and

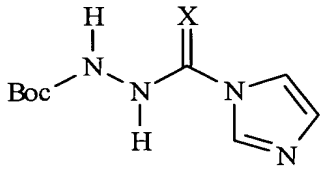
b) heating said reaction mixture to form said hydantoin or thiohydantoin.

27. (New) A method for making a 3-aminodihydrouracil or 3-aminodihydrothiouracil having the formula:

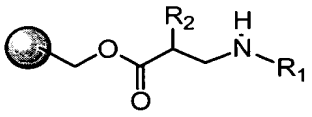


wherein X is oxygen or sulfur, R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, a heterocyclic ring, an aromatic ring, or a heteroaromatic ring; R_2 is hydrogen, alkyl, a heterocyclic ring, an aromatic ring, or a heteroaromatic ring; or R_1 and R_2 can be taken together to form a fused heterocyclic ring, a fused aromatic ring, or a fused heteroaromatic ring with the 3-aminodihydrouracil or 3-aminodihydrothiouracil ring; said method comprising the steps of:

a) reacting a hydrazine compound having the formula:



with an amino acid ester having the formula:



wherein the symbol:

signifies a Merrifield resin, hydroxymethyl, resin, Wang resin, or PEG resin; to form a reaction mixture; and

b) heating said reaction mixture to form said 3-aminodihydrouracil or 3-aminodihydrothiouracil.